

COUNTRY China/USSR

DATE DISTR. 22 JAN 51

SUBJECT Conditions in Sinkiang, Including Troop Dispositions, NO. OF PAGES 2  
Road Construction, and Civilian Morale

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The troop strength of the USSR post at Qizil Ribat (74-45; 37-28) formerly 70 men, has been increased to 3,050. These troops are commanded by a general. The post has been connected with the interior of the USSR by a motor road and now a train<sup>1/</sup> runs between Qizil Ribat and Murghab (73-58; 38-1) and a daily train carries arms to Qizil Ribat.
2. A new motor road from Qizil Ribat to P'uli (Tashkurghan 75-14; 37-45) via Shingan Nullah<sup>2/</sup> is under construction. Three hundred coolies, as well as some Soviet soldiers, are working on this road.
3. The population in P'uli believes that when the new route from Qizil Ribat to P'uli is completed, the USSR will ask the Chinese Communists to attack Pakistan, fearing that Pakistan will invade Sinkiang to help their fellow Muslims.
4. Propaganda in Sinkiang is stating that the Chinese ought to take the Ladakh airfield because the Americans intend to use it in their invasion of China via Kashmir and Tibet. The Ladakh road was closed in early December 1950.<sup>3/</sup>
5. A new arms factory is functioning in Kashgar. Steel is arriving from the USSR via Indijan<sup>4/</sup> in return for which raw materials such as cotton and wool are being exported to the USSR.<sup>5/</sup>
6. The Khotan district of Sinkiang raised 12,000 Nationalist soldiers who have now<sup>6/</sup> accepted the Communist Regime. Communist soldiers have now<sup>6/</sup> entered the Khotan area. This area produces gold, silk, and cotton.
7. All aircraft have been taken from Kashgar to Korea. There is no air service between Kashgar and Farikol (sic).
8. Muslims in Sinkiang are discontented with the Communist regime. Officially there are no restrictions on prayers, but orchestras play for dancing at evening-prayer time to distract the young, and young men enlisted as soldiers have no time to attend religious services. Gatherings of more than four people are prohibited. In Kashgar, daily lectures stress the Korean war, boasting of secret Soviet weapons a thousand times more powerful than the Atom Bomb, and capable of defeating America in two weeks.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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9. The Muslims and old Chinese are secretly planning to rise against the Communists if war starts in China. The Turki Muslims and the Tunglams are in consultation and with help and leadership are ready to rise against the Communists, but they are handicapped by a shortage of arms. The Communists are searching every Muslim house to collect all arms, including rifles, swords, and knives. In the two provinces of Kashgar and Yarkand there are 400,000 troops and 25,000 armed police. Every day the soldiers round up the local population to work on the road from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The workers get only half rations as wages.

10. The Chinese Communist Government intends to infiltrate agents without Indian visas and disguised as merchants into Gilgit in order to obtain military and other information in that area.

1/ [REDACTED] Comment. There is believed to be no railroad between Muzghat and Qizal Ribat. The word may refer to convoys of soldiers and arms.

2/ [REDACTED] Comment. This may refer to the Shingan Valley.

3/ [REDACTED] Comment. This sentence may mean that the Government of India has closed the route to Sinkiang from Ladakh.

4/ [REDACTED] Comment. Possibly Andizhan (72-20; 40-45).

5/ [REDACTED] Comment. The original report does not indicate clearly the connection between the steel imports and the arms factory.

6/ [REDACTED] Comment. "Now" was received as "not" but, in view of other reports [REDACTED] locating the 4 Cavalry Brigade and an unidentified division in the Soch'e Khotan area, this office believes that "now" is almost certainly meant.

7/ [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] mentions the possibility of a Mohammedan uprising in Sinkiang in January or February 1951.